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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/730,032	12/09/2003	Huadao Huang	42266-191113	3018
23639	7590	04/07/2005	EXAMINER	
BINGHAM, MCCUTCHEN LLP THREE EMBARCADERO CENTER 18 FLOOR SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94111-4067			DONOVAN, LINCOLN D	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2832	

DATE MAILED: 04/07/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/730,032

Applicant(s)

HUANG ET AL.

Examiner

Lincoln Donovan

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 November 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 16-20 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 9, 12 and 13 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 10, 11, 14 and 15 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

Applicant's election with traverse of the restriction in the reply filed on 11-30-04 is acknowledged. The traversal is on the ground(s) that the claims should be examined together. This is not found persuasive because group III is directed to specific structure not required for groups I and II. Group II, upon further consideration, is rejoined with group I.

The requirement is still deemed proper and is therefore made FINAL.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 9 and 12-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Marcou et al. [US 5,594,398] in view of Whipple et al. [US 6,392,513] and Foster, Jr. [US 4,851,951].

Regarding claims 9 and 12-13, Marcou et al. disclose a receptacle device for protection against ground faults comprising:

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- an upper cover [12] including electrical output plugs [16, 16'], a fault test button [26] and a reset button [28], the output plugs comprising phase line openings and neutral line openings;

- a base [14] including a pair of electrical input couplings [23, 23'] and electrical outlet plugs [16, 16', figure 5];

- electrical circuit components coupled to the electrical input couplings and electrical outlet plugs for detecting a fault current [figure 12];

- an electromagnetic latch [78];

- a locking means [28b] coupled to the reset button and electromagnetic latch;

- a reset button bias member [82] located below the reset button having two openings [82a, 82a'] extending from a top thereof and a central opening [82] for the locking means.

Marcou et al. disclose everything claimed except the device providing arc fault protection, an arc fault test means and a pair of locking means extending through the reset button bias means.

Whipple et al. disclose a circuit interrupter having a ground fault and arc fault detection circuit [27, 29] with test means for each [45, 49] activated by a button [9].

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include an arc fault detection/test button means in the interrupter of Marcou et al., as suggested by Whipple et al., in order to protect against arc faults and ground faults.

Foster, Jr. discloses a reset button including a pair of column shaped engagement members [figure 2] cooperating with an electromagnetic latch [60].

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the engagement member design of Foster, Jr. in Marcou et al., as modified, for the purpose of providing even force distribution.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-8 are allowed.

Claims 10-11 and 14-15 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Lincoln Donovan whose telephone number is 571-272-1988. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Enad Elvin can be reached on 571-272-1990. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

ldd


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